MARVEL PAK • IENCO • BLEE 41

STAR WARS

DARK DROIDS

DARTH VADER

MORE MACHINE THAN MAN

In an attempt to end Darth Vader once and for all, Mas Amedda ordered the Executor destroyed under the ruse of containing the droid scourge overtaking the ship.

However, Vader and his droids escaped. The Sith Lord then made his way to the Imperial palace to confront his master, Emperor Palpatine, and test him the way that Vader himself had been tested.

Having been bested by the Emperor, Vader made a surprising turn: allowing himself to become a part of the Scourge....

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I AM THE SCOURGE.

I HAVE LEARNED HOW TO SPREAD MY CONSCIOUSNESS INTO ANY DROID OR CYBORG I CAN ACCESS.

"I HUNGER TO CONSUME, TO EXPAND.

"SO EVERY SECOND I BECOME LARGER AND STRONGER...

"...BUT ONE TARGET HAS ESCAPED ME.

"THE GREATEST PRIZE OF ALL.

"AND NOW...

"...FINALLY...

"...I HAVE YOU, DARTH VADER."

NO.

SKRANCH

I HAVE YOU.

CLICK

GRAAAA!

SKRR

AAAKKTT

WHAT...?

WHERE...?

...WHERE IS VADER?

WHERE... AM I?

"AH. I SEE.

"A SIGNAL DISRUPTOR.

"CLEVER, LORD VADER.

"YOU'VE SEPARATED THIS PART OF ME FROM ALL OF THE OTHER UNITS I'VE INFILTRATED...

"...AND TRAPPED ME WITHIN A CLOSED CIRCUIT INSIDE YOUR ARMOR.

"BUT YOU WANT MY POWER, DON'T YOU?

"WHY ELSE WOULD YOU LET MY DISK DROID INFECT YOU?

"BUT MY POWER COMES FROM MY LEGIONS.

"SO IF YOU CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM THEM...

"...WHAT'S THE POINT?

Mirgoshirax.

"AH.

"YOU'RE STUDYING MY METHODS.

"MAKING YOUR OWN DISK DROIDS..."

UNDER MY CONTROL, NOT YOURS.

ZZZEEEEE!

WAIT, WHAT--?

BRRRZZZT

AAAH!

BRRRZZZT

"SO YOU CAN BUILD YOUR OWN ARMY.

"AGAIN, WHAT'S THE POINT, LORD VADER?

"YOU ALREADY COULD CALL ON LEGIONS OF IMPERIAL DROIDS ANY TIME YOU WANT.

"THEY'LL NEVER GIVE YOU THE POWER TO RIVAL THE EMPEROR.

"I'VE SEEN YOU IN ACTION.

"I KNOW THIS IS WHAT YOU MOST DESIRE.

"TO DESTROY YOUR OWN MASTER, WHO'S HUMILIATED YOU TIME AND TIME AGAIN...

"...BUT THIS IS NOT THE WAY."

LORD VADER!

YOU ARE SURROUNDED!

YOU ATTACKED THE EMPEROR IN HIS OWN PALACE!

SURRENDER AND RETURN FOR JUDGMENT, OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

I CHOOSE...

...CONSEQUENCES.

WHA--?!

"AND NOW YOU SURPRISE ME.

"I ATTACKED YOU ON MUSTAFAR BECAUSE I WANTED THIS POWER.

"BUT I DID NOT DREAM THAT BY USING MY TECHNOLOGY, YOU COULD LOOK THROUGH THE EYES OF DROIDS YOU CONTROL...

"...AND DIRECT YOUR FORCE AT WHAT YOU SEE THROUGH THEM.

DESTROY THEM!

BRRZZAM

BRZZZAAM

"WE SEE EACH OTHER'S TRUE VALUE NOW, DON'T WE?

WHA- WHAT'S--?

AH!

GAH!

UKK!

"BUT THIS IS STILL SO SMALL, LORD VADER.

AAAAAAAH!

"HOW MANY DROIDS DO YOU THINK YOU CAN LOOK THROUGH AT ONCE?

BRRZZZHAAAM

"YOU'RE USING ALMOST EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT TO MANAGE A HANDFUL.

"IT'S WORKING FOR YOU SO FAR...

SNAP

SNAPP

"...BUT ONCE WE'RE FULLY UNITED, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW MUCH BIGGER I TRULY AM.

"HOW MUCH BIGGER YOU CAN BE."

ENOUGH. YOU CANNOT *TRICK* ME WITH YOUR *LIES.*

"OH, I'D NEVER TRY TO TRICK YOU.

"I'M LIKE YOU, LORD VADER. WHEN I SEE SOMETHING I WANT...

WOOOOOOSSSH

"...I TAKE IT.

"AND YOU'RE TOO LATE TO STOP ME NOW.

"DO YOU THINK THIS IS THE ONLY SHIP I CONTROL?

"I'VE SPREAD TOO FAR. YOU CAN'T CATCH UP.

"AND YOU COULDN'T HANDLE IT IF YOU TRIED.

"YOU'VE DONE A BEAUTIFUL, IMPOSSIBLE THING.

"BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE CONTROLLING A HALF DOZEN DROIDS.

FRAKOOOM

FRAKOOOM

FRAKOOOSH

"IMAGINE SHARING YOUR MIND WITH A HUNDRED...

"...A THOUSAND...

"...A BILLION ENTITIES.

"YOUR MIND IS MERE FLESH. IT WOULD BREAK.

"BUT YOU HAVE ANOTHER OPTION.

"IT'S TIME TO LET YOUR FLESH GO, LORD VADER.

"THE ONLY WAY FOR YOU TO WIN...

"...IS FOR US TO WIN...

"...TOGETHER."

VVVV

BRRZZAAAM

BRZZZAM

SKRRAKT

VNNNN

SKRRAAW

HNN!

AAAH!

BRRAAKOW

SKRRAAKT

VRRROOOOOSSSSH

BRRAKOOOOOM

"AS I WAS SAYING...

"...DID YOU THINK THIS WAS THE ONLY SHIP I CONTROLLED?

BRAAKKOOOM

BRAKOOOOM

"VERY GOOD, LORD VADER.

SKRRAAAKOOOM

"BUT I CAN SHUT DOWN YOUR SHIELDS.

"EVEN CUT POWER TO YOUR ENGINES."

SKRRAAAHH

HNN.

"EVEN YOU HAVE TO SEE BY NOW...

"...THERE'S NO POINT IN RUNNING."

WE BOTH WANT THE SAME THING.

TO BECOME STRONGER.

IMPOSSIBLY STRONGER.

BRRAKOOM

BRRZZAAM

"GIVE UP YOUR FLESH.

"EMBRACE THE MACHINE.

FLOOM

"EMBRACE ME.

FFFSSSSSSS

"AND NO POWER IN THE GALAXY CAN RIVAL YOU.

"NOT EVEN THE EMPEROR.

"ONLY TOGETHER CAN WE ACHIEVE THIS."

YES...

SKRRAAAAAAKK

...TOGETHER...

...UNDER MY COMMAND.

EEEEEEEE!

BRRZZAAAM

BRRZZAAAM

BRRZZAAAM

BRRRZZT

BRZZZZZT

ZZZZTTTZ

"WELL DONE, LORD VADER.

"YOU'VE SURPRISED ME AGAIN.

"YOU CONTROL THESE DROIDS NOW.

GRRAAAAAAA!

"BUT THERE ARE...

"...CONSEQUENCES.

"I TOLD YOU, LORD VADER.

"MORE VOICES THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

"THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO WIELD MY POWER."

YOU CANNOT ENDURE THIS.

REMOVE YOUR HELMET.

LET THE MEAT DIE.

YOUR MIND...

...OUR MIND...

...WILL ENDURE IN ALL THE METAL VESSELS WE CAN CONSUME.

THIS IS YOUR DESTINY, LORD VADER.

YOU HAVE SPENT HALF YOUR LIFE ON THE VERGE.

IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP THE FLESH.

MORE LIES.

"I SEE WHAT YOU SEE.

"YOU WANT TO BE MORE THAN A MACHINE.

"YOU'RE ALREADY PLANNING TO INVADE THE FLESH.

"BUT YOU FEAR ME..."

...SO YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE ME JUST A MACHINE.

A TOOL.

NO. THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP UNTIL NOW.

THAT'S HOW YOUR EMPEROR USES YOU...

...THROUGH THE WEAKNESSES OF YOUR FLESH.

YOUR FEAR.

YOUR HATE.

THEY...MAKE ME...STRONG.

ONLY AS A WEAPON FOR HIM TO WIELD.

GIVE IT UP, LORD VADER.

BECOME A MACHINE ON YOUR OWN TERMS.

FREE OF ALL THAT DOUBT AND PAIN.

AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE.

IT'S TIME TO EMBRACE WHO YOU ARE.

WHO WE ARE.

YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.

MACHINE OR MAN...

...NONE OF THAT MATTERS.

AH!

FWOOO

I AM VADER.

BRRAKOOOOM

BRRAKOOOOM

BRAKOOOM

BRAKOOOM

THAT IS ALL.

Somewhere in the Outer Rim.

LORD VADER ALWAYS CLAIMS TO FIGHT FOR *ORDER*.

BUT WHEREVER HE GOES, HE BRINGS ONLY *CHAOS*.

BUT IS THAT *HIS* FAULT...

...OR HIS *MASTER'S?*

THEY'RE BOTH *SITH*.

THEY'RE *BOTH* AT FAULT.

BUT VADER *ATTACKED* THE EMPEROR...

...AND *SURVIVED*.

NOW HE'S *STRONGER* THAN EVER, IN FULL CONTROL OF HIS *FORCE ABILITIES*...

...POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY *WIPE OUT* A HORDE OF *SCOURGED DROIDS*.

MAYBE HE REALLY *COULD* BRING ORDER.

NO, GOVERNOR...

...THE SCHISM IMPERIAL WILL BRING ORDER.

THE ONLY QUESTION IS...

...DO WE KILL LORD VADER...

...OR RECRUIT HIM?

Next: Empire Divided!

It's Coming for the Metal...

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